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ENGLAND CRICKET BOARD ALLOWS GENDER PARITY IN MATCH FEES

Riding on the back of record attendances and rising popularity of women's cricket, ECB decided to pay equal match fees to women as the men

REPORT INDICATES HUGE WAGE DISPARITY

Abolishing the pay gap in England had already been recommended in a report by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, which was published two months ago. It highlighted deep-rooted discrimination in the English game. The average salary for women players was 20.6% of what the men's team received for limited-overs games

ECB FOLLOWS NEW ZEALAND AND INDIA

- New Zealand Cricket was the first board to introduce pay parity, followed by Indian and South Africa cricket boards
- A total of 1,10,00 people came to watch the drawn Women's Ashes series between England and Australia. The broadcast viewing figures of 5.3 million were double those in 2019 | P17

Four

COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ENGLAND, HAVE ANNOUNCED MATCH FEE PARITY SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

I.N.D.I.A'S LS SEAT-SHARING TALKS OFF TILL LAST STAGE

It would create needless friction if taken up now, suggests Nitish

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE meeting of the Opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A, which will begin here on Thursday, will leave the contentious issue of seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha elections to the respective state leaders to thrash out.

Sources said the decision to keep it out of the meeting's agenda was taken on the request of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"Nitish said the moment seat-sharing talks begin, it would create friction. He suggested taking it up at the last moment ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. After regional parties discuss seat-sharing in their respective states with allies, it can be escalated to the national level for finalising the deal," said sources, adding the Congress is okay with it.

Sources said I.N.D.I.A aims to field one common candidate against the BJP in as many seats as possible in the Lok Sabha elections. "In many states, things are more or less clear as to who will take the lead against the BJP. But in Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, evolving a seat-sharing consensus with parties like the AAP, Congress and Trinamool Congress may not be easy. Winnability alone should decide which party would get the ticket," the source said requesting anonymity.

"The way we are getting support from the people and the alliance is gathering the momentum, it will be inevitable for all of us to remain together against the BJP," the source said.

He recalled how Janata Party was formed against Indira Gandhi's rule despite lots differences among its allies.

Work allocation

Over 200 rooms have been booked at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Mumbai for the delegates. While Shiv Sena (UBT) is in-charge of media and welcoming guests at the airport, the Congress will make arrangements for the meeting. NCP (Sharad Pawar)'s task is to arrange transport for the delegates

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ties a rakhi on the wrist of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, at his residence in Mumbai on Wednesday | ANI

SAD, BSP won't join Oppn bloc

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI, HARPREET BAJWA AND NAMITA BAJPAI @ Mumbai/ Chandigarh/ Lucknow

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said as many as 63 representatives from 28 political parties will participate in the two-day I.N.D.I.Ameeting, up from 26 parties last time.

Pawar mentioned two parties, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which left the NDA in 2020, and the BSP, as candidates to join I.N.D.I.A, but added that both have their compulsions.

As for SAD, its direct rivals in Punjab are the Congress and AAP. "No decision will be taken that will hurt the incumbent alliance partners," Pawar said.

Regarding BSP chief Mayawati, he said which side she is on is known. "She is already communicating with the BJP. Things will be much more clear closer to the Lok Sabha polls," the Maratha strongman said.

For its part, the SAD said it cannot be part of any arrangement that includes the Congress and AAP. SAD leader Balwinder Singh Bhunder confirmed that the party was approached to join I.N.D.I.A but said it will stay away. Sources said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had approached SAD and Indian National Lok Dal to join I.N.D.I.A.

Mayawati, too, was categorical that the BSP will go it alone in the polls. She reiterated her stand of equidistance with both the NDA and I.N.D.I.A.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launch the Gruha Lakshmi scheme in Mysuru on Wednesday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar look on | UDAYASHANKAR S

> They (women) suffered due to the rise in the prices of LPG, petrol and diesel. This made us formulate five guarantees. The Congress will always stand by its promises. We do not make false promises
> – Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

> The saffron party used all possible means to stall the implementation of five guarantees, but the will of the people of Karnataka prevailed... We will continue to implement women-centric schemes
> – Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC president

Throw out 'fascist' Modi govt, say Rahul, Kharge

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

THE state government's mega convention to launch the much-awaited Gruha Lakshmi scheme, one of the five guarantees promised in the poll manifesto of the Congress party, on Wednesday turned out to be a platform for party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge to lash out at PM Narendra Modi and ask people to oust the "fascist" union government headed by him.

Under the scheme, each woman head of a family will be given Rs 2,000 a month.

Speaking after launching the scheme here, Rahul termed it the world's largest welfare scheme for women. The country will be strong only if women are empowered. Modi had accused the Congress of making false promises during campaigning for the May 10 Assembly elections. "But within 100 days of Congress forming government, we implemented four of the five guarantees promised. All four are meant to empower women," he said.

Rahul said Congress is happy to fulfill the promises it made to women, especially sisters, on the "Raksha Bandhan" day.

Training his guns on BJP, Rahul said the saffron party works only for the welfare of capitalists, especially for the "vikas" of two or three friends of the PM. But Congress works for people's welfare. "We work for the welfare of women, youth, BCs, SCs, STs, and minorities. Our concern is no one should be left behind," he added.

Recalling his 'Bharat Jodo' yatra in Karnataka, Rahul said, "We listened to people's grievances and the guarantees were their suggestion and not a strategy devised by any think tank. During my 600-km yatra in Karnataka alone, we understood that price rise was the main problem among women we met. CONTINUED ON: P4

Karnataka starts releasing Cauvery water to TN; JDS threatens protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

DESPITE strong opposition from farmers' organisations and opposition parties, the state government started releasing water to Tamil Nadu from Tuesday night to comply with the direction of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to discharge 5,000 cusecs of water per day for 15 days.

Irrigation officials are keen on ensuring that 5,000 cusecs of water reaches the gauging station at Biligundlu on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border per day. Accordingly, 4,398 cusecs of water from the Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir (KRS) and 2,000 cusecs from the Kabini reservoir in HD Kote taluk is now being released. The KRS has 24 tmcft of water, including 15 tmcft of live storage, and Kabini has 13 tmcft of water, including 3 tmcft of live storage.

DyCM to consult legal team today

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will visit New Delhi on Thursday along with a team of irrigation department officials to hold consultations with the state's legal team a day ahead of the Supreme Court hearing Tamil Nadu's plea seeking direction to Karnataka to release 24,000 cusecs of water daily. P4

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the state has opposed Tamil Nadu's demand for 24,000 cusecs of water per day and apprised the CWMA of the ground situation following its direction to release 5,000 cusecs of water per day for 15 days.

He said Karnataka will continue its legal battle to protect the interests of its farmers and to ensure supply for drinking purpose in cities and towns.

Meanwhile, farmers of Mandya protested against the release of water from KRS accusing the state government of ignoring their interests. P4

HDK suffers mild stroke, now stable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister HD Kumaraswamy reportedly suffered a mild brain stroke early Wednesday and was admitted to a private hospital in the city. The doctors treating him said that his condition is stable and he is expected to be discharged from hospital on Friday.

Dr Govindaiah Yatheesh, vice-president and unit head, Apollo Speciality Hospital, Jayanagar, said Kumaraswamy arrived at the hospital around 3:40am complaining of weakness, discomfort and slurring of speech. He was immediately evaluated and shifted to the ICU. He is under the care of Dr P Sathish Chandra, a neurology specialist, and his team.

Dr Chandra told reporters that Kumaraswamy was brought to hospital within the "golden hour", which helped in his fast recovery. P4

BBMP chief engineer succumbs to burns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Engineer of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's Quality Assurance Lab **CM Shivakumar** (45) succumbed to burns on Wednesday evening. He was battling for life after he suffered burns in the blaze at the Palike's lab on August 11.

Along with Shivakumar, eight other Palike employees who suffered burns, were rushed to St Martha's Hospital. They were shifted to Victoria Hospital's burns ward on August 11. Shivakumar was then shifted to Apollo Hospital at Sheshadripuram on August 22 for further treatment as he was suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) due to inhalation of chemical fumes. He suffered extensive lung injury and was on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) support.

The health bulletin issued by the hospital stated that Shivakumar suffered 25% burns and inhalation injury with ARDS, type 2 respiratory failure.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters (aged 12 and 10). Last year, Shivakumar's parents died in a road accident at Nanjangud near Mysuru.

Congress floor leader's LS suspension revoked

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha Secretariat on Wednesday revoked the suspension of Congress floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, hours after the Privileges Committee adopted a resolution recommending it to do so.

In the resolution, the committee chaired by BJP member Sunil Kumar Singh said there shouldn't be any further punitive action as Chowdhury expressed his 'regret' before the panel. However, Congress MP Suresh Kodikunnil and Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee objected to the word 'regret' in the resolution, pointing out that Chowdhury did not do so. Both were overruled.

"The committee in the light of their findings and conclusions, observed that there was deliberate attempt on the part of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury by interrupting and disturbing the proceedings of the House during the speech of PM or other ministers, thereof, is a clear case of contempt of the House," said the resolution.

Appearing before the panel, Chowdhury said he had no intention to hurt or insult anyone.

PARCHED EARTH

The dried-up Ulsal Lake in 'City of Lakes' Bengaluru provides a stark picture of the dire rainfall situation in Karnataka | VINOD KUMAR T

CHANDRAYAAN 3

Rover takes first picture of lander on Moon

Photo of Vikram lander as taken by Pragyan rover. It also shows of the lander's two instruments, ChaSTE and ILSA, which have been deployed | ISRO

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CHANDRAYAAN 3's Pragyaan rover on Wednesday morning clicked the first photograph of Vikram Lander after it landed near the Moon's south pole on August 23.

Sharing the image with the caption "Smile Please", Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) took to 'X' saying: "Pragyaan Rover clicked an image of Vikram Lander this morning. The 'image of the mission' was taken by the Navigation Camera onboard the Rover (NavCam)." The NavCam is processed by Space Application Centre (SAC)/ISRO in Ahmedabad. Pragyaan took the photograph at 11 am from a distance of 15 metres from the lander, an ISRO scientist said.

Explaining why the photograph of Vikram taking a picture of Pragyaan and visa versa at the same time was not done, the scientists said Vikram took a photograph of Pragyaan when it was coming out of the lander. The cameras are fitted in front of the rover, just like cars having headlights. So during the operations, Pragyaan turned around and took the lander's photograph in which its Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) and Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment (CHAste) can also be seen. Some more photographs are expected in the coming days.

The scientists said the task for them has become more challenging as the Chandrayaan 3 team is associated with Aditya L1 to be launched on September 2 from Sriharikota at 11.50 am. The same team is also working on other projects.

EXPRESS READ

KPSC secy misusing powers, says chairman

Bengaluru: KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar has accused Commission secretary Suralkar Vikas Kishor of misusing his powers and setting in motion a tender process for Rs 45 crore for a piece of work, without bringing it to the notice of the Commission or the government. P6

India exempts S'pore from rice ban

New Delhi: India has decided to lift its rice export ban for Singapore, which also happens to be its highest investor, to help the Southeast Asian country meet its food security requirements. Singapore is investing $17.2 billion in 2023 in various projects in India, including Gujarat International Finance Tec City project. P10

80% Indians have favourable view of PM

Washington: About 80 per cent of Indians have a favourable view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and around seven in 10 Indians believe their country has recently become more influential, according to a survey by the PEW Research Center. The survey was released ahead of the G20 Summit.